

Message Text

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11
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-10

EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /090 W

----- 115451

R 031821Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1593

UNCLAS ROME 19775

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, OCON
SUBJ: 70TH FAO COUNCIL

SUMMARY: THE FOURTH TO SIXTH PLENARY SESSIONS DISCUSSED REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, THE AD HOC CONSULTATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHEME FOR AGRICULTURAL CREDIT DEVELOPMENT, THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS, AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE REPORTED SEPARATELY BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. WORLD FOOD SECURITY: NEARLY ALL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 6, WORLD FOOD SECURITY, CENTERED ON THE STATEMENT BY INDIA ON BEHALF OF THE G-77 APPENDED TO THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CWFS), CL 70/10. LED BY INDIA, PAKISTAN, GUINEA, AND LEBANON, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELEGATIONS REQUESTED IMMEDIATE ENDORSEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF THE INDIAN STATEMENT. SECRETARY KNEBEL SET THE TONE FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' RESPONSE BY QUESTIONING WHETHER THE MINIMUM SAFE LEVEL OF CARRYOVER STOCKS SHOULD BE AS HIGH AS 17-18 PERCENT OF CONSUMPTION AND ARGUING THAT IF FURTHER ATTENTION BY FAO WAS NEEDED, BOTH THE STATISTICAL QUESTION AND THE INDIAN STATEMENT SHOULD BE DEFERRED TO THE TECHNICAL LEVEL OF THE CWFS CONSULTATIONS. HIS STATEMENT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS, THE EC, JAPAN, AND GERMANY IN QUICK SUCCESSION.

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2. FOLLOWING A BRIEF BUT DETAILED STATUS REPORT ON THE GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PRESENTED BY MR. A. G. LEEKS, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE FAO COMMODITIES DIVISION, WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE UNITED STATES, MOST DELEGATIONS ENDORSED THE SYSTEM AND COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE PACE WITH WHICH THE PROGRAM WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED. THE JAPANESE INSISTED THAT LEEK'S REPORT BE ISSUED AS A SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT, TO WHICH DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA AGREED AFTER JAPAN WAS SUPPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS. CANADA NOTED THAT SOME ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INVESTIGATING HOW THE SYSTEM'S OUTPUT IS USED, WHILE A FEW DELEGATIONS CALLED FOR WIDER INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION, SOME MENTIONING THE USSR AND PRC BY NAME.

3. SCHEME FOR AGRICULTURAL CREDIT DEVELOPMENT (SACRED): REPORT OF THE AD HOC CONSULTATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHEME FOR AGRICULTURAL CREDIT DEVELOPMENT, CL 70/18, RECEIVED POSITIVE SUPPORT FROM EIGHT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE US AND TEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL SUPPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESTABLISH SACRED WITHIN THE PRESENT STAFF AND BUDGET OF FAO AS EMPHASIZED BY SOME DELEGATIONS, OTHERS IN SUPPORTING THE SCHEME STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CREDIT FOR SMALL FARMERS. ALSO A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS POINTED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING NATIONAL CREDIT INSTITUTIONS AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR TRAINING OF LOCAL STAFF, COOPERATIVE LEADERS AND EVEN FARMERS IN THE USE OF CREDIT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING. SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF REPAYMENT OF LOANS IN CASES OF NATIONAL DISASTERS, SUGGESTING THE NEED FOR SOME FORM OF CROP INSURANCE OR A SYSTEM OF GUARANTEES. THE SECRETARIAT MADE IT CLEAR, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM CANADA, THAT THE TERM "AGRICULTURAL CREDIT" ALSO APPLIED TO FISHERIES AND FORESTRY. THE SECRETARIAT FURTHER INDICATED THAT NEW STUDIES AS PROPOSED BY INDIA WERE NOT NEEDED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHEME AND THAT THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE WOULD PERIODICALLY REVIEW THE PROGRAMS ON CREDIT.

4. COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS: REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS (CL 70/11 AND SUP.1) INTRODUCED UNCLASSIFIED

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BY SECRETARIAT UPDATED THE FERTILIZER SITUATION NOTING THAT WHILE IN THE FIRST PART OF THE 1976/77 PERIOD THE FERTILIZER MARKET WAS STRONGER, THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN BALANCE THIS YEAR. SINCE JUNE 1976 ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$5.6 MILLION IN CASH AND \$3.5 MILLION IN KIND HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE FAO FERTILIZER PROGRAM BY THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER SCHEME RECEIVED ADDITIONAL PLEDGES SINCE JUNE 1976 IN THE

AMOUNT OF \$12.6 MILLION FROM FOUR COUNTRIES, OF WHICH \$10.4 MILLION CAME FROM THE UK. FROM THESE FUNDS IFS PURCHASES FERTILIZERS FOR 18 COUNTRIES.

5. THERE WERE 15 INTERVENTIONS ON THIS ITEM AND THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WAS ADOPTED. DELEGATES OF 11 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED THE EXTENSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER SUPPLY SCHEME (IFS) BEYOND ITS 1977 EXPIRATION DATE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE MSA'S WOULD CONTINUE TO NEED FERTILIZER BECAUSE OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. JAPAN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AND THE US, HOWEVER, DISSENTED AND URGED THE COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE SCHEME AT ITS NEXT MEETING AND REPORT TO THE COUNCIL SINCE FERTILIZERS WERE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET AND PRICES HAD FALLEN. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FAO'S INTELLIGENCE FORECASTING SYSTEM BE IMPROVED. PAKISTAN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAO DATA RECEIVED IN DETERMINING ITS FERTILIZER POLICY. FAO WAS ALSO URGED TO MERGE ITS THREE OFFICES WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN DIFFERENT FERTILIZER ACTIVITIES. CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND FAO WAS DEEMED DESIRABLE IN PREPARING FOR THE 1977 WORLD FERTILIZER CONFERENCE. ALSO FAO SHOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH UNCTAD IN DEVELOPING MEASURES TO STABILIZE PHOSPHATE PRICES.

6. WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM CENTERED ON THE PREPARATORY WORK OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARIAT'S DOCUMENT CL 70/19, WHICH INTER ALIA RECOMMENDS THE CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE IN 1979 RATHER THAN 1978, WAS ENDORSED DESPITE THE OPPOSITION OF SOME OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THE DELAY. THE PERUVIAN DELEGATE, IN BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT, OFFERED TO HOST THE CONFERENCE. THERE WAS FULL AGREEMENT THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE A "WORKING" CONFERENCE, AT WHICH

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SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTS WOULD EVALUATE THE EXPERIENCE GAINED AND THE PRACTICAL LESSONS LEARNED. THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE SMALL FARMER, WAS PARTICULARLY NOTED. THE BENEFITS OF HAVING REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE WAS ALSO EMPHASIZED. THE PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE OF SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UN FAMILY, ESPECIALLY ILO, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR UNIONS, WAS MENTIONED BY SEVERAL SPEAKERS.

7. THE COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN 1979 FELT THAT THE MEETING WOULD PROVIDE A SUITABLE FORUM AND SUPPORTED FAO EFFORTS FOR CAREFUL AND CAUTIOUS PREPARATION. THE REGIONAL MATTERS COULD BE CONSIDERED AT THE 1978 REGIONAL FAO CONFERENCE. THE DECISION AS TO VENUE FOR THE 1979 MEETING WOULD

BE TIED TO FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ADDITIONAL COSTS THAT A HOST
COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TO BEAR. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME19775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760449-0273
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761275/aaaacmok.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 70TH FAO COUNCIL SUMMARY: THE FOURTH TO SIXTH PLENARY SESSIONS DISCUSSED REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, THE AD HO
TAGS: OCON, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006